

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 DODE-00 /070 W

----- 104943

R 240913Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2408

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: WFTU VISIT TO MANILA

REF: MANILA 1189 (NOTAL)

1. WFTU SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE GENSOUS ARRIVED HERE FROM TOKYO ON FEBRUARY 23, ACCOMPANIED BY MOHINDRA SEN (INDIAN NATIONAL, WFTU'S ASIAN REPRESENTATIVE) AND A MS. HELEN GOULDE (TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS FRENCH NATIONAL WFTU STAFFER SERVING AS FRENCH/ENGLISH INTERPRETER). GENSOUS PARTY WILL BE IN MANILA UNTIL FEBRUARY 26.

2. TWO WELL-INFORMED TUCP OFFICIALS SEPARATELY GAVE LABATT RUNDOWNS ON SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES AS INDICATED BELOW. PROGRAM INCLUDES VISITS TO "CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS" (CULTURAL CENTER, ETC.), ALEC (ASIAN LABOR EDUCATION CENTER, UP), UP LAW CENTER, LYTTON TEXTILE, REPUBLIC FLOUR MILLS, MARIWASA CERAMICS, AND POSSIBLY SOME AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE. TUCP GAVE DINNER FEBRUARY 23, AND NATU (MINOR UNION AND WFTU'S SOLE AFFILIATE IN PHILIPPINES) OFFERING RECEPTION

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FEBRUARY 25. IN ADDITION, GENSOUS WILL BE RECEIVED BY

TUCP BOARD FEBRUARY 24, AND WILL CALL ON ACTING LABOR SECRETARY AMADO INCIONG FEBRUARY 26.

3. ACCORDING TO ONE OF TUCP SOURCES, GENSOUS' REMARKS AT TUCP DINNER WERE "NON-POLITICAL", STRESSING WFTU DESIRE HAVE "FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS". FACT THAT REMARKS DELIVERED IN FRENCH APPARENTLY RESULTED IN UNINSPIRING TRANSLATION WHICH TURNED OFF MANY OF ASSEMBLED TUCP LEADERS.

4. DURING HIS VISIT TO MANILA LAST WEEK, AAFLI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MORRIS PALADINO HAD OPPORTUNITY PRESENT AFL-CIO VIEWPOINT REGARDING RELATIONS WITH WFTU DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE AND TUCP LEADERS BERT OCA AND DEMOCRITO MENDOZA. PALADINO MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT SHOULD THERE BE ANY INCLINATION ON FILIPINO SIDE TO ENGAGE IN ANY SERIOUS FLIRTATION WITH WFTU, AAFLI WOULD NOT BE IN ANY POSITION TO CONTINUE ITS LABOR EDUCATION EFFORTS HERE. AS PALADINO SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT OPLE GOT THE MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR. BOTH OCA AND MENDOZA LATER ASSURED PALADINO THAT TUCP HAD NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER TO ENTERTAIN ANY POSSIBLE OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FROM WFTU.

5. COMMENT. WFTU VISIT HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF AN EMBARRASSMENT TO TUCP. INVITATION APPARENTLY CAME ABOUT DURING LAST SUMMER'S ILO SESSION IN GENEVA WHEN, AS FRATERNAL GESTURE, TUCP PRESIDENT ROBERTO OCA EXTENDED VAGUE INVITATION TO VISIT PHILIPPINES. GENSOUS WAS QUICK TO RESPOND, AND MOHINDRA SEN LAID GROUNDWORK LAST MONTH (REFTEL). IDEA OF VISIT, IF NOT INITIALLY PROMOTED BY GOP AS PART OF ITS DETENTE EFFORTS WITH BOTH SOVIET CAMP AND PROC, CERTAINLY HAD ITS BLESSING. IN ANY EVENT, A POLITICALLY UNSOPHISTICATED TUCP WAS STUCK WITH HANDLING VISIT AS BEST IT COULD.

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